



## **Staff Report**

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### MINOR REVISIONS TO THE FRAMED BELMONT CITY POEM

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

#### **Summary**

The Mayor proposed that Jim McLaughlin's "Belmont" Poem from 1962 be adopted as the official Belmont City Poem. During the Council meeting of August 9, 2005, Council made a motion for adoption. During the Council meeting of September 13, 2005, Council officially adopted the resolution. Council decided to have the poem designed with hand-calligraphy. Council wants the poem to be highlighted as part of the grand opening of City Hall.

#### **Background**

In 1962, Jim McLaughlin wrote the poem titled "Belmont" and it was published in a book titled Poetry of the Golden State. "The poem captures the soul rather than the body of the City," said Mayor Warden. It was written 43 years ago and still represents the City, according to Warden.

#### **Discussion**

During the City Council meeting of August 9, 2005, Council agreed that the poem should be designed using hand-calligraphy, and displayed at City Hall.

Staff researched options and recommended Ms. Ann Miller design, calligraphy and professionally frame the Belmont poem, and that it be hung in the lobby of Belmont City Hall. Council discussed revised options at the September 27, 2005 Council meeting, and picked option B with the alternate mounting plan (described below).

#### **Option B**

Budget of \$2,000.00 + tax, not including frame or installation.

Artwork is 20x20" and would consist of a title, the attribution, and 12 four-line stanzas written in simple upright script and arranged in two vertical columns separated by a blue vertical rule. In addition, the title would be larger, include several colors and illumination treatment, with the possibility of either of the following:

- 1) A small vignette in watercolor of a Belmont hill and tree closely associated with the large initial 'B' in Belmont.
- 2) The first initial B in first line of the poem will be highlighted.

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Alternate mounting plan:

The artwork may be mounted between two 1/4-inch sheets of acrylic, with spacers to keep it off the wall, floaters for mounting the art, decorative caps for the drywall screws, and Jaylar permanent clear tape to seal the edges. This would entail some more research, but the acrylic sheets can be cut, bullnosed and drilled for approximately \$350. This figure does not include hardware or installation, which may require molly bolts. This option would not conflict with the framing of the Council and elected photos, and might highlight the “glass look” in the lobby and Council Chambers.

**Revision**

Because Council directed staff to not put any bolts or hanging devices into the new paneling in the lobby of City Hall, and because the above mounting plan option requires the use of molly bolts or screws, staff has a minor change to the framing and mounting plan for the Belmont City Poem (see Recommendation area below).

**Fiscal Impact**

The cost of the poem will be \$2,000 + tax and framing. There is sufficient funding in Account #101-1301-8351 for this purpose.

**Recommendation**

Staff is recommending that the Belmont City Poem be professionally framed and matted, and hung in the lobby of City Hall using a system recommended by the manufacturer of the paneling.

**Attachments**

There are no attachments.

Respectfully submitted,

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Administrative Assistant

Jack R. Crist  
Interim City Manager